

### Technical Bulletin - TB2023-01

## Subject: Quantum Neo S+ shelf – Upgrade considerations from the C shelf

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Quantum Neo 'S+' shelf measures diameter or circumference of cigarette sticks and filters in up to five separate positions (between 5 mm and 80 mm from the rod end). Like the C shelf, it utilises a non-contact laser micrometre compliant with ISO 2971:2013. It also boasts a precision motion control system capable of 50µm positional repeatability.



The S+ can therefore report ovality, roundness and shape measurements that describe the deviation from round of any sample in up to five different positions.

The above parameters are defined as follows

Size = diameter = 
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{d_k}{n}$$

Where  $d_k$  is the k<sup>th</sup> measurement of diameter and n is the total number of measurements. A minimum of 64 measurements during a full rotation is required and the S+ takes 100 measurements per rotation.

Ovality is defined as the difference between biggest & smallest of 100 individual readings on one sample:

$$Ovality = \max diameter - \min diameter$$

Roundness is defined as:

$$Roundness = \frac{diameter - ovality}{diameter} \times 100\%$$



Shape is defined as the Coefficient of variance of 100 scans comprising a single measurement:

Shape = 
$$CofV\% = \frac{SD(n-1)\times 100}{Mean}$$

An accurate measurement of size is critical to the determination of ovality, roundness and shape. The following section describes how the S+ is used.

# 2.0 CALIBRATION OF THE OPTICAL MEASURING SYSTEM

The S+ shelf is supplied with three reference calibration standards. Two of the standards are used for the calibration of the diameter (or circumference). The third standard is used for the calibration of the positioning system on the S+ shelf.

The size standards are cylindrical metal rods with a ground surface finish of about 0.5  $\mu$ m average roughness. These are supplied with a calibration certificate with reference values that are needed during the shelf calibration procedure.



The length standard is rod like with a taper feature whose diameter is smaller than the large size standard. This is also supplied with a calibration certificate with reference values that are needed for the linear motion system calibration.



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Figure 1 shows the shelf with the size standard in place.

Size calibration standard in place

> Carriage retracted to top-"run position"



Figure 2 shows the shelf with the carriage at the top position ready for length calibration.



Figure 3 shows the shelf with the length standard in place.

Length standard in place

Carriage at actual "calibrated" position on the length standard. The tip of the arrow points to the anti-backlash mechanism.



Figure 4 shows the carriage at the actual calibration point along the taper of the length standard.



## 3.0 DISCUSSION

During the length calibration of the S+, the carriage moves up and down to "hunt" for the exact position on the taper. Because of the bidirectional nature of the carriage motion, Cerulean has fitted the unit with an anti-backlash mechanism in order to remove any bidirectional repeatability errors.

Figures 5 and 6 show the results of experiments whereby 10 lots of 2 different size samples were measured at 5 different measurement points to determine repeatability along a single sample. This shows that the repeatability along a single sample is better than 50  $\mu$ m.

The S+ shelf is therefore a robust and reliable measuring instrument that delivers all the required measurements in line with the ISO 2971:2013 standard requirements. It also delivers up to five measurements along sample lengths, with a positional accuracy that meets current and future industry demands, making it the best choice to upgrade from the C shelf.



2 = 30mm

3 = 50mm

**Measurement Position** 

4 = 65mm

5 = 80mm



Number of

7.72

7.7

7.68

1 = 10mm